

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 26 through 40 were previously cancelled. Claims 2 through 25 and 41 have been amended herein. All of the pending claims are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

1. (Previously presented) A deployable truss comprising:  
a plurality of column members connected at their ends to form a deployable truss that forms a rigid structure in a deployed state and that has a stowage volume less than its deployed volume in a collapsed state, wherein at least one of the plurality of column members comprises a column assembly having at least one tapered end, the column assembly including at least three strut members, each strut member of the column assembly being connected to each other strut member of the column assembly at a first end of the column assembly and at a second end of the column assembly.
2. (Currently amended) The deployable truss according to of claim 1, wherein the at least three strut members of the column assembly are substantially symmetrically arranged about a longitudinal centerline of the column assembly.
3. (Currently amended) The deployable truss according to of claim 1, wherein the at least three strut members of the column assembly are further connected to each other at a location between the first and second ends of the column assembly when the deployable truss is in the deployed state.
4. (Currently amended) The deployable truss according to of claim 3, wherein the at least three strut members of the column assembly are rigidly connected using a rigidizable resin.

5. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 4, wherein the rigidizable resin comprises a thermoplastic resin.

6. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 4, wherein the rigidizable resin comprises a UV curable resin.

7. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 3, wherein the at least three strut members of the column assembly exhibit a substantially helical twist about a longitudinal centerline of the column assembly.

8. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein the column assembly further comprises a spacer connecting the at least three strut members of the column assembly at a location between the first end and the second end of the column assembly.

9. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 8, wherein the spacer connects the at least three strut members of the column assembly near a midpoint between the first and second ends of the column assembly.

10. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 8, wherein the spacer is collapsible to a stowed configuration when the deployable truss is in the collapsed state and expandable to a deployed configuration that radially spaces the at least three strut members of the column assembly away from a longitudinal centerline of the column assembly when the deployable truss is in the deployed state.

11. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 8, wherein the spacer comprises a rigid spacer that radially spaces the plurality of at least three strut members of the column assembly away from a longitudinal centerline of the column assembly a fixed distance in both the deployed and collapsed states.

12. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 11, wherein the spacer is substantially V-shaped.

13. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 8, wherein the at least three strut members of the column assembly taper toward a longitudinal centerline of the column assembly at the first end and the second end of the column assembly when the deployable truss is in the deployed state.

14. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein each column assembly further comprises a plurality of spacers connecting the ~~plurality of~~ at least ~~three~~ strut members of the column assembly, each of the plurality of spacers connecting the ~~plurality of~~ at least three strut members of the column assembly at a different location between the first end and the second end of the column assembly.

15. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 14, wherein each spacer is collapsible to a stowed configuration when the deployable truss is in the collapsed state and expandable to a deployed configuration that radially spaces the ~~plurality of~~ at least ~~three~~ strut members of the column assembly away from a longitudinal centerline of the column assembly when the deployable truss is in the deployed state.

16. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 14, wherein each spacer comprises a rigid spacer that radially spaces the ~~plurality of~~ at least three strut members of the column assembly away from a longitudinal centerline of the column assembly a fixed distance in both the deployed and collapsed states.

17. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 16, wherein each spacer is substantially V-shaped.

18. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 17, wherein the spacer of each column assembly is arranged to permit nesting with the spacer of another column assembly when the deployable truss is in the collapsed state.

19. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 14, wherein the ~~plurality of~~ at least three strut members of the column assembly taper toward a centerline of the column assembly at each of the first end and the second end of the column assembly when the deployable truss is in its deployed state.

20. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein at least one of the at least three strut members comprises a tube.

21. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein at least one of the at least three strut members comprises a rod.

22. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein each of the at least three strut members is formed from a continuous fiber reinforced composite material.

23. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 22, wherein the continuous fiber reinforced composite material comprises glass fibers.

24. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 22, wherein the continuous fiber reinforced composite material comprises graphite fibers.

25. (Currently amended) The deployable truss ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein each end of the column assembly is tapered.

26.-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently amended) A deployable truss comprising:  
a plurality of column members connected at their ends to form a deployable truss that forms a rigid structure in a deployed state and that has a stowage volume less than its deployed volume in a collapsed state, wherein at least some of the plurality of column members comprise column assemblies including a plurality of strut members, each strut member of an associated column assembly being connected to each other strut member of the associated column assembly at a first end of the column assembly and at a second end of the column assembly, wherein strut members of a column assembly are further connected to each other at a location between the first and second ends of the column assembly when the deployable truss is in the deployed state, and wherein at least some of the strut members of the plurality of strut members of the column assembly exhibit a substantially helical twist about a longitudinal centerline of the column assembly.